

REMARKS UNDER 37 CFR § 1.115

Formal Matters

Claims 1-5, 8, 10, 12-20, 22, 27-28, 30-35 and 40 are pending after entry of the amendments set forth herein.

Claims 6, 7, 9, 11, 21, 23-26, 29, 36-39 and 41 are canceled without prejudice. Applicants expressly reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of these claims in a continuing application.

Claims 8, 10, 12, 13, 14, 22, 27, 28, 30, 32 and 40 are amended solely to avoid multiple dependencies and/or correct dependencies in view of the canceled claims.

No new matter has been added.

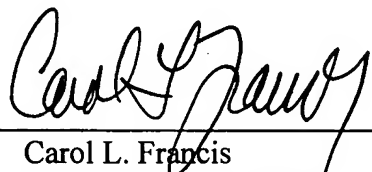
Conclusion

Applicant submits that all of the claims are in condition for allowance, which action is requested. If the Examiner finds that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment of fees associated with this communication, including any necessary fees for extensions of time, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0815, order number RICE-050.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: June 23, 2006

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